

## The Alexandria Gazette

THURSDAY EVEN'G, JANUARY 1.

The papers are variously speculating as to the probability of foreign mediation or intervention in American affairs. A Washington correspondent of the New York Post referring to the statement that Louis Napoleon will offer propositions of the nature of mediation, remarks: "Rumors of this kind are quite common here at the present time, but they cannot be traced to any authentic source. It is, however, claimed by many intelligent persons that Mr. Seward confidently expects the intervention of the French government in our affairs, and that he has shaped the foreign diplomacy of this government of late, wholly in reference to such a danger."

The rumors prevailing on Tuesday night that the Confederates, in variously stated force, had crossed the Potomac with the view of a second invasion or raid into Maryland, is proved to have had no substantial foundation. A considerable body of Confederate cavalry has been seen for some time along the Upper Potomac. The Federal forces hold all the country between Edwards' Ferry and Winchester under active surveillance, and find it more clear now of armed Confederates than it has been for a long time.

The Baltimore American says:—"Our own impressions are, that Gen. Dix having been relieved of the command at Fortress Monroe, General McClellan will be assigned to that post, and furnished with a force sufficient to enable him to assume offensive operations on Richmond by way of the James River.—When that is done we shall once more have hope of the fall of Richmond."

Gen. Burnside was examined before the latter Court Martial yesterday. In the course of his testimony he stated that almost every general officer with whom he had conversed approved of the removal of the Army of the Potomac from the Peninsula. His testimony was generally favorable to Gen. Porter.

The President of the U. S. was yesterday in consultation on the subject of the bill for creating the New State of Western Virginia.

The weather, this morning, was quite cold.

It is announced that the second daughter of Prince Christian, of Denmark, the Princess Sophie Maria Frederica Dagmar, aged fifteen, and sister of the Princess Alexandra, will be affianced to the hereditary Grand Duke Nicholas of Russia, the Cesarewitch, aged nineteen, and that their confirmation is postponed because, previous to this ceremony, they will enter the Greco-Catholic Church. Intimate relations between the royal families of England and Russia will thus be established.

Rumor asserts that Gen. McClellan has been ordered to Washington, and that he is soon to be in the field again with an important command.

Over 100 tons of ammunition was shipped from Columbus, Ky., on Wednesday December 24, to the army of the Mississippi.

A dispatch from Memphis, dated December 24, states that in consequence of the disturbances in the vicinity of that city, the election for Congress in the neighboring districts had been postponed for twenty days.

## FROM FALMOUTH, VA.

[From the New York Tribune.]

HEADQUARTERS RIGHT GRAND DIVISION,  
December 29th, 1862.

The movements of Gen. Lee are still a puzzle to us all. Colonel William S. Teall, of Gen. Sumner's staff, again made a balloon reconnaissance to the height of eight hundred feet, and reported on his return to terra firma that the Confederates were removing their heavy guns from the first line of intrenchments and that there were many indications of a retreat. The signal corps also made the same report. Long trains of our own wagons captured from us on the Peninsula, or of those made after the same fashion, were seen moving off with apparently heavy loads in the direction of Bowling Green and Guinney's Station.

Whether all this activity is intended as a feint to cover a bold attack in some other quarter, or whether Gen. Lee designs to draw nearer to Richmond and abandon this very strong line, time alone will determine.

But, if Gen. Lee's movements are a mystery, no less are those of General Burnside.

Of one thing, however, we all seem to be certain; and that is, that the Rappahannock will not again be crossed in front of Fredericksburg so long as there is a Confederate battery in position to dispute the passage. The pontoons, about which so much has been said of late all over the land, have been in motion for the past few days, and there is much that is very significant in their movements. Where they are going I shall not inform you, for the best of all reasons—I do not know.

The fields being dry and hard, the roads in admirable condition, and the weather warm and June-like, generals commanding divisions and brigades are busy drilling their troops in the larger movements of the battle-field. Gen. Sumner's Grand Division are almost daily to be seen by brigades and divisions going through the most difficult and complicated maneuvers.

The gunboats have disappeared from the vicinity of Port Royal, and are scattered along the Potomac, from Belle Plain to Washington.

Between twenty-five and thirty former citizens of Fredericksburg, who lost nearly all their property in the bombardment, came across the river to-day by permission of Gen. Lee, with the intention of going North to reside and earn a livelihood.

## THE RAID TO DUMFRIES.

A Washington correspondent of the New York Tribune telegraphs as follows:

In the recent cavalry raid to Dumfries, Occoquan, &c., the 2d Pennsylvania Cavalry lost 50 men killed, wounded and missing, and three officers. One of these was the Surgeon, who stayed behind to take care of the wounded.—An officer of Major Stagg's command, who, in the fight five miles across the Occoquan, was thrown from his horse and lay concealed in the bushes, counted the enemy and reported to be about 4,000. Two Confederate officers were killed at that point, one of them a Major.—His horse and equipments are here. Several privates were shot, too, while crossing, for in the several skirmishes where the enemy's cavalry stumbled on the Federal forces, or were headed by them, they lost about 100.

After the arrival of General Banks at New Orleans, the question of the future movements of the expedition was discussed among the general officers in his presence, when he is said to have remarked: Gentlemen, we shall never return as we came, (pointing down the Mississippi) and we are not going to Texas.

## ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF POTOMAC,

December 31.

A reconnoissance in force went out yesterday morning, which will probably be heard from in a few days. It is believed here that a considerable portion of Lee's army has moved from its late position in the front and gone up the Rappahannock. Its destination, however, is not known.

It has been ascertained by a flag of truce, that Capt. Swearingen, of the late Brig. Gen. Jackson's staff, who was reported killed in the battle of the 13th, was only wounded and captured by the enemy. He is now doing well at a farm house about four miles in the rear of the enemy's front. Lieut. Eddy, ordnance officer of Gen. Whipple's staff, is a prisoner in Richmond. He was unhurt on the battle field.

Last night, about eight o'clock, the wires ceased to work north of Falmouth Station.—The cause was unknown at 10 P. M. The last heard of the Confederate cavalry was from Occoquan, which place they had passed on their way northward.

THE LAST MAN.—Some years ago there appeared in Blackwood's, a sketch of peculiar interest, entitled the Last Dinner, which obtained general currency through the American press, and attracted by its freshness and power, considerable attention. A party of friends—so the story ran—organized at the outset of their career in life, a "convivial club," the existence of which they mutually pledged themselves to each other to perpetuate so long as one of their number should survive to celebrate its appointed anniversary. Each recurrence of this festive occasion finds their friendly circle lessened by one of its members, until at length, after the lapse of many years, but one of the original brotherhood survives. The usual day of annual meeting again arrives, and this sole survivor—the last man—repairs to the club room, tenanted but by the memorials of its departed members; assuming the chair of the pre-iding officer, he places himself at the head of the festive board, arranged, in keeping with the affectionate practice of the club, for twelve persons, and proceeds to tender in habitual language the customary greetings of the occasion. But unlike the days of old, when the courtesy was recognized with cordial cheers and convivial laughter, the echoes of his own words are his only responses. But even these are eloquent with the memories of the past, with warnings of the future, and so powerfully appeal to the overwrought sensibilities of the old man, that, in realization of his own prophetic fancies, he expires in his seat—The Last Man. The subject has been wrought into a beautiful and touching drama.

St. Louis papers announce that all steamers on the Mississippi are now in the employ of the Government, transporting troops and supplies towards Vicksburg, and are of the opinion that the expedition is already near its destination.

The provost guard of Washington, day before yesterday, seized one barrel and four boxes of liquor, and a complete outfit for a pie bakery, one barrel of mince meat, one barrel of dried apples, and four barrels of flour, which were being smuggled into Virginia.—The liquors were marked to an officer, but the smuggler admitted that this was only a blind. The bakery and other articles were marked, "officer's mess."

The Board of Inquiry into the case of Commander Preble, charged with unnecessarily permitting the Oreto to run the blockade at Mobile, say in their official report, that Commander Preble ought to have boarded her.